

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, and 13 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 10 have been amended, and claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 1 and 13 are allowed, and that claims 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution of this application, claim 3 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 14, and claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 15, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,872,973 to Ikebuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,214,982 to Pfalzer. Solely to expedite prosecution, independent claim 3 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 14 (now cancelled), and independent claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 15 (now cancelled). Claims 5 and

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12 depend from claims 3 and 10, respectively. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 are now in condition for allowance.

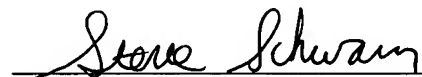
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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